

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 07207 132130Z
ACTION SS-25

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O R 132055Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7459
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7207

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT NU
SUBJ: NICARAGUA MFM

REF: STATE 231766

1. CHARGE AND POLCOUNS OBTAINED APPOINTMENT WITH UNDERSECRETARY ALLARD AT 4:00 P.M. TO CARRY OUT REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS. DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS JULIO BARBOZA, FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATOR LOUGE AND DIRECTOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS ESPECHE GIL WERE ALSO PRESENT. CHARGE SET FORTH POINTS IN REFTEL AT SOME LENGTH WHICH WERE RECEIVED WITH GENERAL AGREEMENT BY ALLARA.

2. CORE OF ARGENTINE POSITION AS EXPRESSED BY ALLARA IS THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL GOA SUPPORT VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH NEW PRECEDENTS
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FOR INTERVENTION IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. HOWEVER IN LIGHT OF INCURSION INTO COSTA RICA A NEW ELEMENT HAS ENTERED SITUATION WHICH MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR THE GOA TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION. IF A NEW INITIATIVE WERE PUT FORWARD WHICH IS BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT, NOT THE VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL, THE GOA MIGHT WELL SUPPORT IT. ALLARA APPEARED SWAYED BY THE ARGUMENT THAT THE MFM

SHOULD LIMIT ITS ACTIVITIES TO THOSE EXPRESSED IN REFTLE PARA SIX. THIS TOGETHER WITH JUSTIFYING THE CONVOCATION ON THE NICARAGUAN INCURSION WOULD APPEAR TO BREAK NO NEW GROUND FOR THEM IN TERMS OF INTERVENTION.

3. BARBOZA WAS LESS FORTHCOMING AND HIGHLY LEGALISTIC. HE AGREED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT A NEW RESOLUTION BUT OBSERVED THAT THERE HAD BEEN MANY PREVIOUS BORDER INCIDENTS BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA AND MANY HAD BEEN DEALT WITH AT A LEVEL INFERIOR TO A MFM. HE PROFESSED CONCERN THAT THE INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT WOULD MERELY BE A PRETEXT TO JUSTIFY THE DOMESTIC INTERVENTION WHICH THE VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE HAD SOUGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE. CHARGE OBSERVED THAT MEXICANS HAD STATED THEY SUPPORTED CONVOCATION OF MFM AND RARELY TOOK A BACKSEAT IN ASSERTING POSITION OF NON-INTERVENTION. THIS WAS APPARENTLY NEWS TO BARBOZA AND HAD AN IMPACT. ARGENTINES DID NOT CHALLENGE THE CONTENTION THAT THE BORDER INCIDENT MADE IT VIRTUALLY CERTAIN AN MFM WOULD BE CONVOKED SO BEST COURSE FOR THEM WOULD BE TO GET ON THE BANDWAGON AND HELP SHAPE THE COURSE OF EVENTS, MINIMIZING THOSE ASPECTS OF MFM WHICH THEY CONSIDER DISTASTEFUL. WE BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD HAVE CHALLENGED THIS HAD THEIR HEAD COUNT SUGGESTED A MAJORITY WAS LACKING.

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4. THE GOA HAS NOT RECEIVED A FULL REPORT AND HAS NOT YET ADOPTED ITS POSITION FOR THE SEPTEMBER 15 MEETING. OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT THE PRICE OF GOA SUPPORT WILL BE A NEW REQUEST FROM A SOURCE OTHER THAN THE VENEZUELAN WHICH IS JUSTIFIED (PERHAPS IN DEBATE) ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION CREATED BY THE BORDER INCURSION. CHAPLIN

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